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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building—P. O. Box 1728—Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 269

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

JANUARY, 1966

Stage Set for More Job Expansion in 1966

Record Employment Year Ends—Another Begins—The year 1965 ended with the highest average of non-farm employment ever recorded in Montana. Non-farm employment exceeded the 180,000 mark for seven months of that year to set a record average yearly employment total of 180,200. This represented a gain of 2.3 per cent over the 1964 employment figure for non-farm industries. Yearly employment averages were up in seven of the eight basic industry groups for 1965. Construction employment recorded the most advance with a gain of 6.1 per cent over the 1964 employment average for that industry. Other percentage increases in employment over 1964 totals include government, up 3.6%; finance, insurance and real estate, up 2.9%; manufacturing, up 2.8%; trade, up 1.9%; Transportation, communications and utilities, up 1.1%; and service industries, up 0.8%. The 1965 average of 7,300 employees in the mining industry was the only group to show a drop from the 1964 average employment total. The loss was 3.9 per cent. Considered as a whole, Montana's non-farm economy was on solid ground at year's end. The record breaking employment totals which highlighted every month of 1965 gives evidence of Montana's economic strength and sets the stage for more job expansion in 1966.

December Employment Up 7,600 From Last Year—With a less than seasonal decline of but 700 from November, December 1965 employment in Montana's non-farm industries totaled 183,000 wage earners. This was a sub-

stantial increase of 7,600 workers over the December 1964 employment figure. All major industry groups had more workers on their payrolls this December than December a year ago.

Construction and Gov't. Show Most Gain—Payrolls of construction and governmental units were each 2,400 higher this December than last. Most of the gain in government employment was at state and local levels with an increment of 2,200 workers. Other good employment advances from last year occurred in trade establishments, up 1,500; and manufacturing, up 600. Payrolls of three other industries were 200 each above last year: transportation, communications, and utilities; finance, insurance and real estate; and the service industry group. Mining payrolls for December 1965 exceeded last year by 100 workers.

Labor Surplus Under Last Year—The number of registered jobseekers at the state's twenty-two local employment offices increased by 2,300 during December to a total of 11,347, with but half of this number as jobless pay claimants. The total jobseeker inventory was down 2,300 from last year. Many of the new jobseekers in the December labor market were housewives, students, and other family workers seeking temporary employment during the holiday season. Historically the labor surplus peak usually comes during January or February of each year and then starts to diminish early in March as spring job opportunities begin to shape up for another season.

Job Placements Up—Job placements in industry and farm continued their upward trend from year ago accomplishments. Local employment offices placed 2,183 workers in non-farm jobs during December, up 14.6% from last year. New jobs openings in trade and manufacturing industries accounted for nearly half of this total. Employers listed 2,453 December job openings with local employment offices, a gain of 7.2% from last year.

Farm Labor Demand Quiet—Passive job trends covered most of the farm front during the month. With few exceptions, range land was open and free of heavy snow in most statewide areas eliminating any great need for livestock feeders and other winter farm and ranch hands. December job placements in agriculture total 418 workers. Some demand existed for farm couples in a few localities.

\$6,189,973 Paid in UCC Jobless Benefits in 1965—The UCC wrote benefit checks of nearly \$6.2 million for eligible, unemployed workers during 1965. This represents a substantial boost to the main stream of the Montana economy as recent surveys show that most of this money winds up in the cash registers of trade and service firms in the state. Unemployed workers in Yellowstone County received the most in UCC checks during 1965 with a total of \$766,049. A close second was Cascade County with \$737,734. Other substantial amounts went to Silver Bow County, \$506,075; Missoula County, \$432,104; Flathead County, \$431,576; and Lewis and Clark County, \$251,132.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Nov. 1965	Oct. 1965	Nov. 1964	Nov. 1965	Oct. 1965	Nov. 1964	Nov. 1965	Oct. 1965	Nov. 1964	Nov. 1965	Oct. 1965	Nov. 1964	Nov. 1965	Oct. 1965	Nov. 1964
All Manufacturing	3.7	3.8	2.9	3.2	3.6	2.1	4.5	6.3	3.9	1.4	3.2	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.6
Durable Goods	3.7	3.9	3.1	3.1	3.5	1.9	5.7	7.1	4.6	1.9	3.5	1.6	2.2	1.1	2.2
Primary Metal	3.0	2.2	5.2	2.8	2.1	2.1	4.8	6.5	5.0	1.9	1.4	.5	.1	.1	3.4
Nondurable Goods	3.7	3.7	2.4	3.4	3.7	2.4	2.3	4.5	2.6	.5	2.5	1.6	.5	1.4	.7
All Mining	7.5	9.8	9.3	4.2	4.7	1.6	4.9	7.6	12.4	2.3	2.4	3.2	.5	.7	5.2
Metal Mining	7.3	6.6	8.8	2.3	2.1	1.3	5.0	5.9	10.4	2.7	3.0	3.1	.1	.3	1.4

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for December

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—Number of jobseekers shows substantial decline from last year. Stable trends in manufacturing plus new construction kept economy on the bright side this winter season. Trade and service volume holding up well. Farm labor demand diminishing.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—Labor market activity adjusting to normal winter patterns especially in outdoor industries. Work in various construction fields shows the sharpest decline as force reductions occurred on highway projects, Yellowtail Dam, and buildings. December building permits totaled \$485,000, most for new residential construction. Trade employment up with opening of new shopping center and downtown supper club. Business at most other trade firms exceeds last year. Farm labor demand chiefly for winter livestock feeding operations. Big surplus of single farm hands awaiting jobs.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—Over-all economic trends remain generally favorable but labor demand reduced seasonally. Most construction stayed active with fairly good weather. Work on new city hall completed. New projects include \$500,000 doctors' clinic. Logging and sawmill operations still flourish with more demand for timber fallers. Farm labor demand drops but some demand for couples.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—An improved economy reflected by increased activity in mining and construction activities. Short supply of experienced miners for shaft sinking operations. Work on \$3 million dollar addition to copper concentrator to start this spring. Contract let for additional 7 miles of interstate highway. Site cleared for new bank building.

CUT BANK—Outdoor work at very minimum due to bad weather. Winter layoffs continuing on federal projects in Browning area. Activity in oil fields keep fairly steady pace. Labor demand in trade and service firms not too active.

DILLON—Mild weather throughout much of the month permitted most outdoor work to continue with little interruption. Renovation projects, new building, and some highway work stayed on good schedules. Farm labor supply and demand in balance with little

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Dec. 65	Nov. 65	Dec. 64	Nov. 65 to Dec. 65	Dec. 64 to Dec. 65
Civilian Work Force	251.9	258.5	246.3	-6.6	5.6
Total Employment	241.7	248.3	233.8	-6.6	7.9
Total Non-agricultural Employment	213.2	214.8	202.7	-1.6	10.5
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	183.0	183.7	174.4	-.7	7.6
Total Agriculture Employment	28.5	33.5	31.1	-5.0	-2.6
Labor Management Disputes	.1	.1	.2	0	-.1
Total Unemployment	10.1	10.1	12.3	0	-2.2
Percent Unemployed	4.0	3.9	5.0		
U. S. Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.9	4.7		

demand for livestock feeders because of moderate weather.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—Labor market trends holding up fairly well except in road and missile site construction. Most idled workers found work on other projects. Main street employment remained at good force with but little extra hiring for the holiday season. Farm labor demand declined.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—Labor demand not too active in any industry segment. Most construction at standstill with exception of work on new bank building. Very little hiring evident in oil field drilling and related activities but future trends look favorable. Livestock care comprised main farm activity.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—New job applications up 50% from year ago as snow and sub-zero weather cut sharply in to all outdoor activities. Construction suffered most heavily but idled workers will return to jobs when weather moderates. Hiring at smelter continued weekly but expected to subside in coming months. Hiring was most active in trade industries, doubling year ago figures. Farm hiring expected to pick up with demand for livestock feeders.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—December hiring was concentrated mainly in trade and construction. Opening of new retail store made 15 jobs. Most road construction in area shut down for winter. Logging and mill employment stays at good capacity. Layoffs by forest service and sugar refinery at Missoula created most new unemployment during the month.

HAVRE, Chinook, Hartem—Labor demand in farm and industry depressed by snow and cold weather with little hope for improvement until next

spring. Most outdoor work completely down. Retirement home under construction only major project in evidence. Employment in trade firms at minimum winter levels.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—High employment being maintained in most industry groups but with little new hiring in any. Work on new hospital site and renovation at State Capitol building only major construction in progress. Highway work shut down for winter. Some demand for food service and clerical workers. Mild weather held back demand for farm help.

KAISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—New work applications increased for the second consecutive month as heavy layoffs of construction workers continued. Most were furloughed from highway and bridge projects. Work on \$2 million in building projects continued at good pace. Job hiring in the lumber and trade industries doubled from year ago. Stable trends in aluminum manufacturing. Farm labor demand at seasonal low.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—Job placements down seasonally during December but up 43% from past year. Labor demand in most outdoor industries starting to level off. Addition to rest home and home building main construction work in progress. Main street volume shows good increase. Farm labor demand mainly for seasonal work.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—Industrial employment above seasonal levels due to favorable weather. Payrolls of building construction firms holding up well. Trade hiring not up to expectations. Some railroad hiring in evidence. Little demand for farm help.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—Employment down-

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	168.3	167.8	169.3	174.2	178.9	187.2	187.3	188.3	187.0	186.8	183.7	183.0*	

Preliminary Estimate

All employment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period Jan. 1964 to date will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for December

turn noted in both industry and farm from year ago totals. Lack of major construction projects and reduced farm labor demand mainly responsible for lower job levels this year. Seasonal changes evident in trade and service firms.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—Non-farm job hiring decreased in line with normal seasonal patterns for this season of the year. Slight increase noted over last year. Trends in construction and manufacturing hold firm. Trade hiring up with opening of new establishments. Farm hiring triple last year.

POLSON—Employment scene considerably brighter this year than last. Increased activity in logging and sawmills plus opening of new trade firms added to economic strength. Some layoffs noted in construction and other outdoor work. Farm labor demand slow.

SHELBY—Active trends in construction and service industries kept job hiring over last year. Layoffs occurred at missile site locations. Trade employment at normal winter levels. Little change expected in job picture until spring.

SIDNEY—Generally optimistic trends cover local labor market area. Employment levels hold good in most industry groups but only limited hiring at this time of year. Jobless pay claims down substantially from last year. Farm hiring records good gains.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—Winter employment directions fairly bright with exception of worker losses in construction, service, and trade industries. Logging and sawmill operations keep at good volume. Start of some construction awaits better weather. No farm labor demand.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—Normal winter seasonal changes affecting employment totals in construction, trade, and service industries. Some building projects completed during the month. Trade hiring down chiefly in food service units and service stations. Some upswing noted in oil exploration activities. Farm labor demand less than year ago.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 768 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,142 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Dec. 1965 (2)	Nov. 1965 (3)	Dec. 1964	Nov. '65 to Dec. '65	Dec. '65 Against Dec. '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	183,000	183,700	175,400	-700	7,600
Manufacturing	22,600	23,000	22,000	-400	600
Durable goods	13,800	14,100	13,300	-300	500
Lumber and timber products	8,500	8,700	8,400	-200	100
Primary metals	3,500	3,500	3,300	00	200
Other (4)	1,800	1,900	1,600	-100	200
Nondurable goods	8,800	8,900	8,700	-100	100
Food and kindred products	5,000	5,100	5,000	-100	00
Printing and publishing	1,900	1,900	1,700	00	200
Petroleum refining	1,000	1,000	1,100	00	100
Other (5)	900	900	900	00	00
Mining	7,500	7,400	7,400	100	100
Metal mining	4,600	4,700	4,700	-100	-100
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,100	1,100	900	00	200
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,800	1,600	1,800	200	00
Contract Construction	11,900	14,200	9,500	-2,300	2,400
Contractors, building construction	2,800	2,900	3,300	-100	-500
Contractors, other than building	4,900	7,100	2,700	-2,200	2,200
Contractors, special trade	4,200	4,200	3,500	00	700
Transportation and utilities	17,400	17,500	17,200	-100	200
Interstate railroads	7,300	7,400	7,500	-100	-200
Transportation except railroads	4,100	4,100	3,900	00	200
Utilities including communication	6,000	6,000	5,800	00	200
Trade	44,500	42,400	43,000	2,100	1,500
Wholesale trade	8,200	8,800	8,700	00	100
Retail trade	35,700	33,600	34,300	2,100	1,400
General merchandise and apparel	7,900	6,600	7,500	1,300	400
Food stores	6,300	5,700	5,300	600	1,000
Eating and drinking establishments	8,100	8,300	7,900	-200	200
Automotive and filling stations	6,700	6,800	6,900	-100	-200
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,700	6,200	6,700	500	00
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,100	7,000	6,900	100	200
Services and miscellaneous	24,900	24,900	24,700	00	200
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,000	2,900	2,800	100	200
Personal services	2,000	2,000	2,200	00	-200
Other (6)	19,900	20,000	19,700	-100	200
Government	47,100	47,300	44,700	-200	2,400
Federal	11,600	11,600	11,400	00	200
State and local	35,500	35,700	33,300	-200	2,200
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	22,300	22,500	21,700	-200	600
Manufacturing	3,100	3,200	3,000	-100	100
Contract construction	2,300	2,300	2,000	00	300
Transportation and utilities	2,000	2,000	2,000	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,800	5,900	5,800	-100	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,500	3,400	3,500	100	00
Government	4,300	4,400	4,100	-100	200
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,400	24,800	24,800	-400	-400
Manufacturing	3,000	3,000	3,000	00	00
Contract construction	1,700	1,700	1,700	00	00
Transportation and Utilities	2,400	2,400	2,500	00	-100
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,500	7,600	7,800	-100	-300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,500	1,400	-100	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,500	4,600	4,500	-100	00
Government	3,900	4,000	3,900	-100	00

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN DEC. 1965 AND DEC. 1964

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	Dec. 1965		Dec. 1964		Dec. 1965		Dec. 1964		Dec. 1965				Dec. 1964				Wk. 12-31	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1965	1964
Anaconda	66	11	66	14	198	30	362	84	42	5	47	16	18	5	23	8	137	247
Billings	511	132	767	172	1,904	486	2,851	683	346	73	419	148	419	60	479	142	1,235	1,623
Bozeman	213	25	199	35	356	79	485	95	108	16	124	17	148	23	171	30	217	344
Butte	337	69	296	70	951	178	1,072	225	168	4	172	38	119	2	121	18	507	642
Cut Bank	76	23	70	19	335	106	375	120	27	15	42	19	14	3	17	5	211	213
Dillon	64	15	77	24	150	25	237	58	20	36	56	25	13	39	52	6	91	149
Glasgow	47	10	45	5	206	17	302	37	56	7	63	15	54	7	61	8	140	255
Glendive	74	12	49	4	161	11	224	25	27	22	49	5	40	16	56	8	100	136
Great Falls	854	207	574	53	1,601	502	1,582	398	354	36	390	91	187	14	201	35	1,129	1,455
Hamilton	148	45	67	11	244	53	314	74	42	9	51	7	34	6	40	7	186	250
Havre	94	15	111	14	206	47	409	108	34	10	44	9	33	24	57	6	190	292
Helena	208	46	233	33	381	96	601	166	97	17	114	26	119	18	137	45	343	546
Kalispell	259	67	235	44	1,065	272	1,307	292	132	2	134	22	117	8	125	29	717	994
Lewistown	82	18	92	22	268	46	388	75	40	43	83	12	21	32	53	9	193	260
Livingston	31	1	45	2	283	53	327	54	32	5	37	11	40	29	69	6	198	253
Miles City	70	11	66	10	172	27	238	52	36	16	52	13	84	34	118	22	128	163
Missoula	531	88	592	123	1,242	230	1,471	326	255	36	291	48	245	10	255	49	582	844
Polson	122	19	55	15	258	62	283	70	27	1	28	7	9		9	1	178	255
Shelby	109	30	43	13	215	62	186	64	35	5	40	8	24	3	27	4	154	140
Sidney	64	5	45	7	182	24	157	26	32	16	48	9	34	8	42	4	101	122
Thom. Falls	42	14	61	8	119	27	174	43	22		22	9	40		40	10	87	124
Wolf Point	64	10	58	16	297	64	316	70	21	8	29	4	25	4	29	6	173	198
Billings YOC**	180				553				105	2	107							
TOTALS	4,246	873	3,846	714	11,347	2,502	13,661	3,145	2,058	384	2,442	559	1,837	345	2,182	458	6,999	9,505

*Includes 621 claims of the Fed. UC Program 944 same a year ago. **Youth Opportunity Center.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. (1) 1965	Nov. (2) 1965	Dec. 1964	Dec. (1) 1965	Nov. (2) 1965	Dec. 1964	Dec. (1) 1965	Nov. (2) 1965	Dec. 1964
All Manufacturing	114.74	113.77	109.62	40.4	40.2	40.3	2.84	2.83	2.72
Durable Goods	115.92	114.67	106.00	41.4	41.1	40.0	2.80	2.79	2.65
Primary Metals	119.31	118.66	110.83	41.0	41.2	40.3	2.91	2.88	2.75
Nondurable Goods	111.94	112.62	115.46	38.6	38.7	40.8	2.90	2.91	2.83
Food and Kindred Products	97.28	97.36	102.06	40.2	39.9	42.0	2.42	2.44	2.43
All Mining	120.05	118.97	116.57	38.6	38.5	38.6	3.11	3.09	3.02
Metal Mining	114.08	114.08	113.63	36.8	36.8	37.5	3.10	3.10	3.03
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	120.25	114.33	115.18	43.1	40.4	40.7	2.79	2.83	2.83

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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HELENA, MONTANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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